

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc Washington Works Facility

**Dupont Road
Washington, WV 26101
Congressional District 1
EPA ID #: WVD045875291
Last Updated 12/31/2003**

Current Progress at the Site

In 1989, EPA issued to DuPont Washington Works the Corrective Action portion of their site RCRA Permit to conduct investigations and determine if corrective measures were necessary for on-site solid waste management units (SWMUs).

Under EPA direction, DuPont is currently implementing a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). The RFI is a follow-up investigation to the Verification Investigation (VI), which was conducted in 1992 to evaluate whether soil and groundwater quality was impacted by five Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) located on facility property. The VI determined that four SWMUs may have released hazardous constituents to soil and/or groundwater. The RFI is designed to expand on the VI work by further investigating soil and groundwater quality beneath the four SWMU locations, and determine if corrective measures are necessary. The RFI report was submitted to EPA in June 1999 and is currently under review by EPA.

DuPont's RFI Plan for Washington Works includes construction of a sitewide groundwater flow model in order to fully characterize the site groundwater system's flow directions, flow rates, and discharge locations. This holistic approach to groundwater investigation is being conducted because the site currently operates a large system of production wells, which supply water to the manufacturing processes. Previous evaluations of the groundwater system have indicated that ongoing production well pumping appears to control aquifer gradients. The groundwater modeling work is designed to confirm these historical evaluations. EPA is working with DuPont to refine the groundwater model to provide a more accurate depiction of groundwater contours under pumping conditions.

In April 1991, DuPont discovered a groundwater seep containing elevated levels of methylene chloride at the toe of the west end of the Riverbank Landfill SWMU. DuPont soon thereafter installed a french drain type seepage collection system to capture this water and prevent further migration. The water collected in this system is passed through an activated carbon treatment system and then discharged to the Ohio River via an NPDES permitted outfall.

The RFI report is currently being reviewed by EPA. If it is determined that corrective measures are required, EPA and DuPont will mutually develop a schedule for implementation. DuPont received a yes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control Environmental Indicator in September 2003. The Groundwater Environmental Indicator is presently being evaluated.

Site Description

The DuPont Washington Works is located in Washington, West Virginia, approximately 7 miles southwest of Parkersburg, W.V. The 1,200-acre site is situated along the Ohio River and has manufactured various polymer products since 1948. Today, DuPont employs 2,600 people at the Washington Works site. The facility has 14 operating and service divisions that span a manufacturing area nearly 1 mile in length. The Washington Works is located in an industrial area, which includes a General Electric Plastics plant located immediately adjacent to the site's western boundary.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Contaminants

Volatile organic compounds are the main constituents found in the site's soil and groundwater. These compounds primarily consist of methylene chloride, and trace levels of tetrachloroethene, and 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane. In addition, a surfactant dispersing agent, ammonium perfluoro-octanoate, has also been detected at the site.

Community Interaction

Responsible Care Program

As part of its activities as a member of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, DuPont Washington Works has organized a Community Responsible Care Team to address citizen's concerns about the site safety, health and environmental performance and review related topics. The team is composed of citizens from neighboring communities and plant personnel. Programs like the RFI are typically reviewed in the team's quarterly meetings.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

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